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**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800**

Nixon & Vanderhye P.C.
8th Floor
1100 N. Glebe Rd.
Arlington, VA 22201

In re application of
Pierre Hercules Nel
Application No. 09/736,364 :
Filed: December 15, 2000 :
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ON-LINE :
PURCHASING OF GOODS AND :
SERVICES

**DECISION ON REQUEST
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ATTORNEY**

This is a decision on the request filed on May 5, 2003, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

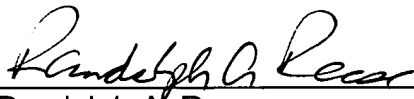
Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney is not accepted in the above-identified application because the request lacks conditions A) and B) above.

As to condition A), the attorney signing the request for withdrawal is not of record. Furthermore, the list of attorneys on the request does not contain all attorneys listed on the Power of Attorney, making it unclear as to who is seeking the withdrawal and whether or not those attorneys listed in the original Power of Attorney but not included in the withdrawal request are retaining their authority.

As to condition B), a proper reason for withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided. No reason has been provided.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randolph A. Reese", is written over a horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese
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RAR/dxn: 6/9/03